

Dear Esteemed Members of the Children's Committee,

This testimony is submitted in OPPOSITION to:
HB-7005, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO VACCINATION BY SCHOOL NURSES AND PERMITTING MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY TO ACKNOWLEDGE SUCH STATEMENTS.

Please oppose HB-7005.

The first line of this bill repeals the current law, Sec10-204a, and replaces it. This means the entire bill can be easily amended to remove our religious exemption all together if allowed to move forward. Please kill this bill here and now because:

- As written, this bill shows no vested or compelling interest for the state to make the suggested change (it removes the nurse and adds clergy). If a nurse is not comfortable signing this document, then the nurse simply needs to be educated on the meaning of their signature. The nurse is not attesting to anything other than that a person is who they say they are. The nurses role is not to judge the validity of, understand, or question, the beliefs of the person requesting a signature. A personally held religious belief does not have to be understood or accepted by others to hold validity and be protected by our first amendment freedoms.
- According to Connecticut law, every child over the age of 5 has the right to a FREE and PUBLIC education. A child in class with a medical exemption is no different than one with a religious exemption. Removing the RE would very clearly be discriminatory.

In conclusion, quite simply there is nothing wrong with our current RE as it stands. Leave this law as it stands. Kill HB-7005.

Sincerely,
Denise M., Hartford county